

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 80, Number 28

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Wednesday, October 31, 1990

Women's collective and QPIRG go separate ways

by Neelam Sandhu

After much agonizing debate, a women-only collective concerned with violence against women has terminated its short-lived relationship with QPIRG.

Women Against Violence (WAVE) made the move last week, after deciding the group's objectives could not be realized within QPIRG's structure.

"WAVE is still a radical idea. Some people still do not recognize the patriarchal society. QPIRG was nervous about how students would react to us," said WAVE member Tara McMurty.

WAVE originally approached

the Québec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) for funding this summer. In September, QPIRG adopted the women's collective as one of four major projects for the year.

Divisions arose when WAVE would not compromise its women-only membership. QPIRG guidelines require that activities and meetings be open to all members.

The proposed solution was a parallel men's collective on Violence Against Women.

"Our idea was to offer men an opportunity to work on an issue that is truly societal in scope," said QPIRG spokesperson, Tom



Heintzman.

WAVE's five members welcomed the creation of a men's group, but objected to mixing the two collectives.

McMurty said, "We have a re-

sponsibility to women on campus. Our energies need to be directed towards them, but we are not able to do this while worrying about money and demands from the structure."

The women's collective was wary of "playing a support role for the men."

"It is important for the men to work on the issue for themselves," said McMurty.

The men's collective will continue to meet, despite WAVE's departure from QPIRG. At present, the men's collective is working on a film project about violence against women.

"We hope that WAVE will still work with the men's group," said member Daron Westman, "but we also think that there is a place for those women who still want to work in a women's only collective within QPIRG."

The split was amicable according to Heintzman. "I think the two groups are better off separate and content with the approach they are taking to this serious problem, than together with misgivings."

WAVE was to receive \$2000 from QPIRG. Now, as an independent group, it can apply for discretionary funding for individual projects.

Inertia plagues disabled students' group

by Kathleen Hickey

Access McGill, a student group dealing with issues facing the disabled on campus, has everything it needs but members and money.

In the past, Access McGill has been funded by Students' Society. The group's chair, Robert Fabes, did not submit a budget this year. "I didn't feel that I could act alone," he said.

Meribah Aikens, Coordinator of Disabled Students' Services, thinks the lack of membership is partially an image problem.

"Disabled students want to be with everyone else," she said. According to Aikens, it is a com-

mon misconception that Access McGill is only for the disabled.

Former Access McGill coordinator Sam Miller agrees, adding that disabled students often feel apathetic about activism because they compose only about one per cent of McGill's student population.

"We have always had a small core of people involved with Access," he said. Miller is now Québec representative for the National Education Association for Disabled Students (NEADS).

"We need able-bodied and disabled students working together. I am very optimistic that we'll be

able to gain momentum," said Miller.

Fabes said that once there is a group of people and a set of objectives, funding can be obtained quickly and easily from Students' Society.

But just what Access McGill will be doing is an open question. Fabes said he would like to get the group started again, but doesn't feel comfortable dictating his ideas to the organization.

Instead he hopes interested people to tell him what they'd like Access McGill to do. Fabes said possible activities include promoting awareness, making the Univer-

sity accessible, and restructuring the present organization.

Miller also thinks Access McGill could address a variety of issues. He would like the group to explore the effects of higher tuition for disabled students and the fact that learning-disabled students are not recognized by the government and are ineligible for benefits like special equipment grants.

NEADS is planning a provincial conference with students from McGill and Université de Montréal that could help Access McGill get involved with other groups in the province.

Access McGill was originally

founded by Law and Occupational Therapy students who wanted to provide more support for disabled students.

The group is one of three at McGill for disabled students, but it is the only one open to all students on campus. The Office for Disabled Students and the Joint Senate-Board Committee for Disabled Students are run by the administration.

Access McGill's first meeting this year will be held on Wednesday, November 7 in room 105 (Students' Society lounge) at 19h.



Protestors dumped garbage on City Hall last Saturday.

Eco-protestors trash City

by Peter Clibbon

Protestors littered Montréal streets on Saturday, treating municipal politicians to a messy reminder of the City's environmental negligence.

The 300 demonstrators dropped plastic bottles, bags, and bundles of newspapers on the doorsteps of *La Presse*, the *Gazette*, the city's transport department, Hydro-Québec and City Hall.

"We want to tell them to stop producing great public declarations and make large scale recycling a reality," said Nadine St-Louis of Eco-St-Henri.

Only the *Gazette* was prepared for Saturday's protest. The newspaper left recycling bins outside its St-Jacques street offices. At City Hall, protesters formed a human chain passing recyclable garbage to collection bins behind the building.

The protest was organized by Action Montréal Vert, a new coalition of Montréal environmental groups.

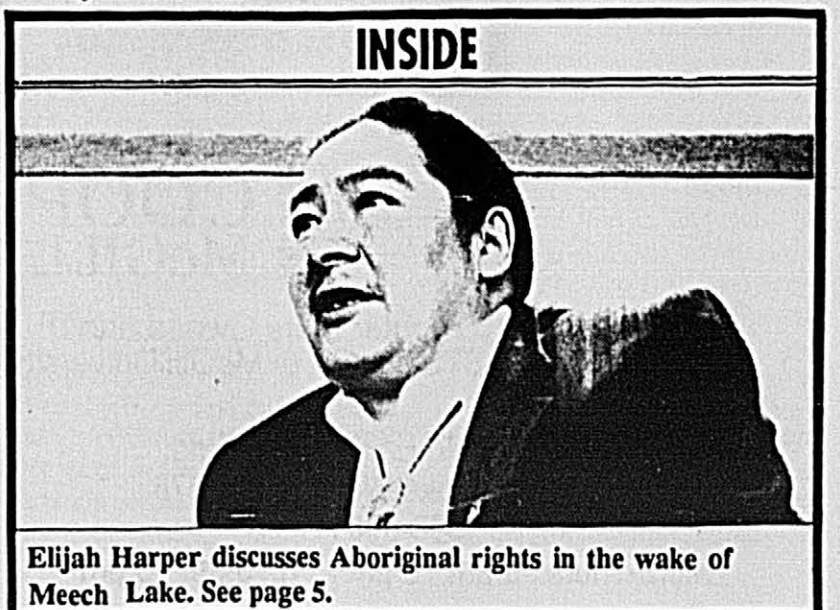
The coalition wants a larger

voice for environmental groups in municipal decision-making. Protection of air and water quality, urban green space, and public education were also included in the protesters' list of demands.

Action Montréal Vert is only a few weeks old, but represents 40 community environmental groups, including *Le Monde* à Bicyclette and Hydro-Glasnost.

Many voiced disappointment with the Montréal Citizens' Movement (MCM) after four years of administration.

"We supported the MCM, but they haven't delivered the goods. More bike paths were built by (previous mayor) Jean Drapeau," said *Le Monde* au Bicyclette President Bob Silverman.



Elijah Harper discusses Aboriginal rights in the wake of Meech Lake. See page 5.

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Drugs and crime in the Mile-End district

by Neal Colgrass

Parc Avenue's drugs-and-crime problem is only one of the issues candidates are facing in Mile-End, a district bordered by Mont-Royal, St-Denis, the CPR tracks and Outremont's city limits. Its population includes roughly 10 000 French, 1100 English, 1000 Italians, and a hodge-podge of other ethnic groups, including Portuguese, Chinese and Greek communities.

Mile-End is one of two Montréal districts where the Democratic Coalition and Ecology Montréal are splitting the progressive vote.

Hot Issues

Green Space

Mile-End has less green space than any other district in the city.

The MCM is planning to put some grass on the outskirts of the district, along the train tracks, but has no plans to green the heart of the ward. Rather than turn school yards or alleyways into green space, as Ecology Montréal wants to do, the MCM is planning to continue its practice of planting trees. It has

already planted over 500, but, says Comité des citoyens du Mile-End representative Claudine Schirardin, "one-third of them are in bad condition or dead" from lack of care.

Crime

Although the notorious drug-fest La Scala restaurant was finally shut down by authorities, drugs and the resulting crime are a problem in the district. The MCM has been slow to act. Community groups were created to get something done, but their success has been limited. "Even if a shooting gallery is stopped, another one re-appears soon after," said Schirardin.

Recycling and the Environment

As in other districts, Mile-End's recycling program is a joke. Residents are invited to carry their paper and bottles to the boxes on Jeanne-Mance, where trucks pick them up only to dump them in a quarry. Why? "There is no market for recycled goods," maintains John Gardiner, MCM candidate. He is trying to create one, though, so his party can reach its paltry recycling goal of 15 per cent (45 per cent

lower than the next-best party).

Meet the Candidates

John Gardiner

(Montréal Citizens' Movement)

Gardiner is the man in the MCM responsible for Montréal's housing and urban planning. Since his Ville-Marie ward disappeared when the electoral map was re-drawn, and he lost his bid to run in the Jeanne Mance district, Gardiner asked Mile-End incumbent Konstantinos Georgoulis to step aside.

Now at the reins, Gardiner wants to give Mile-End a community centre, line the CPR tracks with green space, and make up for concrete elsewhere by planting more trees. He says he also wants to keep an open ear to community groups.

Philippe Lanthier

(Democratic Coalition)

At 27, Lanthier is the youngest candidate in Montréal. His credentials include being president of a Montréal housing co-op (which fought opponent John Gardiner's planning policy) and a member of the local rock band Condition.

He wants referenda to deal with

the community's small problems as they arise. "It's extremely important at all levels that people participate in a day-to-day fashion," he said, a policy he sees as the benchmark of his campaign.

Greg Tutko

(Ecology Montreal)

Guided by what he calls "a most profound respect for life," Tutko wants to tackle two of Mile-End's biggest problems: green space and drugs. Unlike the MCM, which is planning to line the perimeter of the district with grass, Tutko wants to scatter it among the school yards and alley ways.

To combat Mile-End's famous drug problem, Tutko plans to increase police foot patrols and create a program in which ex-druggies return to the area to talk about rehabilitation and the dangers of AIDS.

He also plans to create one-way streets heading south, so bikers riding towards downtown won't have to face the dangers of Parc Ave. and St. Urbain every morning.

Glenmore Brown

(Civic Party)

"I have never been one to make promises — I want to be honest," Brown said, although moments later he maintained that his goal is to have Montréal re-cycling 100 per cent of its garbage.

Somewhere in between, he wants to keep the YMCA in the district, to keep strip-joints out of the district, and to make Laurier "more touristic" by solving its parking problems.

Robert Stec

(Municipal Party)

Stec's main interest in the district is to increase the police presence. "Mile-End is changing," says Gilles Filion, the organiser for the Municipal Party. "The people don't feel safe anymore."

He also wants to create an investment fund to help repair Mile-End's almost 500 abandoned houses, but he doesn't want to fund public housing.

Finally, says Filion, "we want to return the role of the city councillor to what it was before the MCM." He plans to do this by creating bureaus funded to deal directly with the district's problems.

STDs on the rise among students

by Andrea Bain

Students guessed the number of condoms in a condom-covered jar for a chance at a movie pass as part of Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Awareness Week, sponsored by McGill's Student Health Services.

They counted, giggled, and looked embarrassed as they filled out entry forms for the movie pass. A condom-clad banana, used as

a demonstration model, confused some students who asked, "What's it for?"

STD Awareness Week continues through Friday to draw attention to the rise in sexually transmitted diseases, particularly among people of university age.

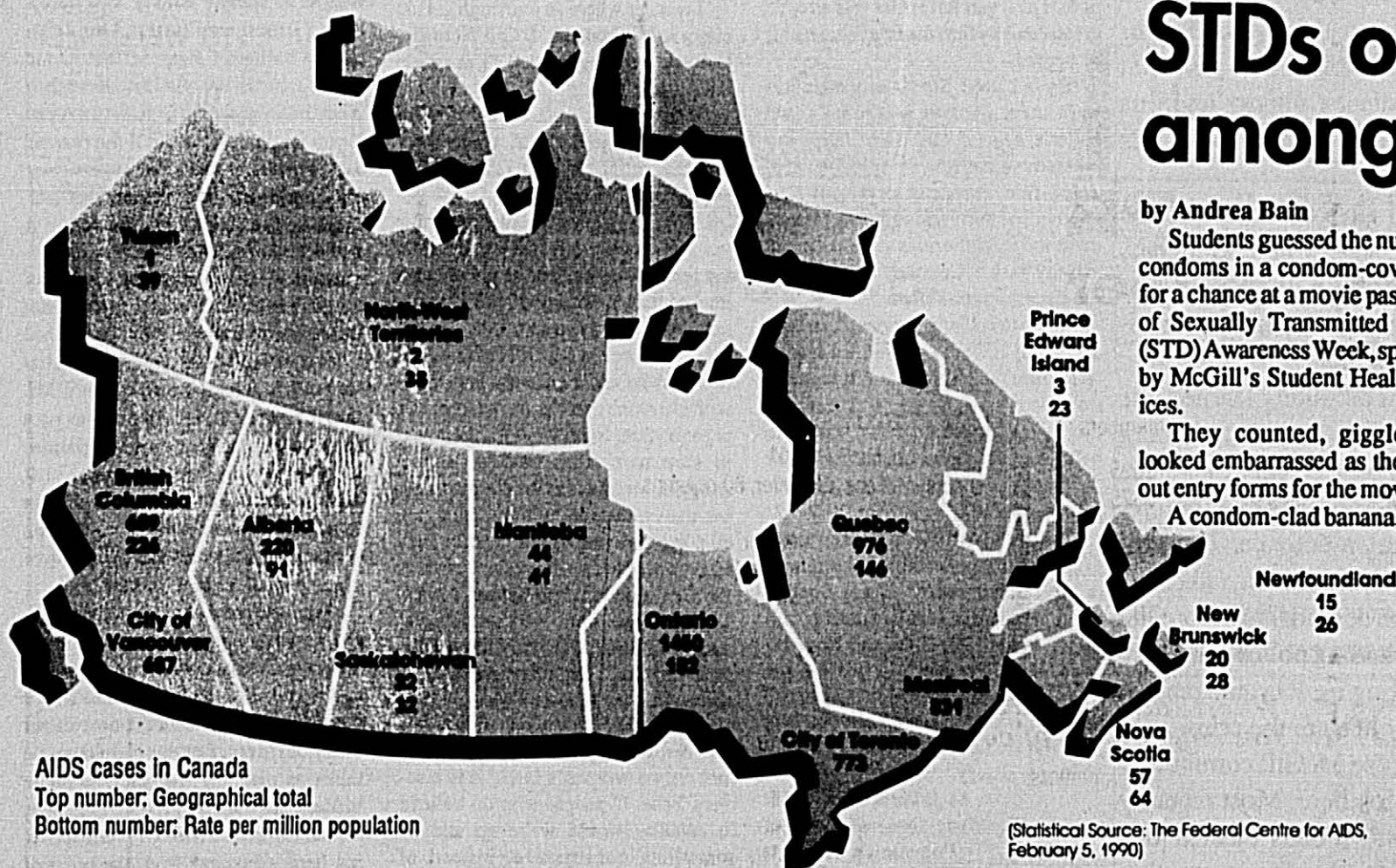
STD's, particularly chlamydia, are on the rise among young people between 15 and 25. Chlamydia may lead to infertility in both men and women and its symptoms, which include discharge, appear between one and three weeks after sexual contact.

"AIDS is also rising rapidly among the 25 to 30 age group," said Suzanne Lawson, an educator at Health Services. "Since the HIV virus can incubate for up to ten years, this means these people could have contracted it in their teens. So university students are the most vulnerable to exposure, especially if they don't use a condom."

Health Services is also distributing material on STD's to McGill residences. Some of the materials bear the slogan, "It Makes Condom Sense."

ACT-UP is also involved in Awareness Week; they will be presenting a skit today at the Currie Gym from 4:30 to 5:30, and tomorrow at noon in the McConnell Engineering Building.

Interactive computers as well as videos on condom use will be located in the Student Union Building on Friday when STD Awareness Week ends. Watch for the dancing person-in-a-condom.



McGill opens new Women's Centre

by Susana Béjar

Women's studies at McGill have finally found a home.

The inter-disciplinary minor, once scattered across campus, is now concentrated in new offices at 3487 Peel. The space is shared with McGill's Centre for Research and Teaching on Women.

The Centre held a reception Monday afternoon to celebrate its move to the new headquarters.

"We are now so well established that things can really take off," said Dr. Peta Tancred, the Centre's di-

rector.

Tancred said centralizing operations will make it much easier to coordinate projects within McGill and with other campuses.

"We are highlighting women's reality, which has not surfaced in much of the scholarship that has been done until now," she said.

The Centre recently collected a survey of research ideas as varied as child rearing practises in isolated communities and the education of women in the 19th century.

Current projects also include a

bibliography of works by black women, a women's lecture series, and a committee to study the Women's Studies minor.

Now approaching its 10th year, Women's Studies is considering the possibilities of developing into an actual department, with a majors degree.

For now, everything the centre does "is about reaching out," said Tancred.

"We're not like a department yet, there are not a whole lot of

people here. Our work is done by approaching existing departments at McGill," she said.

The Centre has about 60 members and is run by a 14-member board of representatives from every faculty.

The Centre and Women's Studies faculty share two floors and several offices. Operational grants from McGill fund all building costs. Projects are being paid for through research grants and outside donations.

THE MCGILL DAILY

"EEEEEEK!"
-Ichabod Crane

COMMENT

Who's on trial?

Forty-six women and men, among them McGill and Concordia students, will enter courtroom '1' of the Montréal Municipal Court this morning to enter pleas and set a date for the largest political trial in the recent history of Montréal.

Their trial, and the fact that they never should have been arrested at all, ought to be one of the most important issues in this fall's municipal election; but it is receiving very little attention.

These women and men were arrested this summer in two days of non-violent protest against the brutal persecution of this city's lesbian and gay community by the Montreal Urban Community police. Lesbian and gay people are routinely marginalized by the dominant heterosexual power structures; the silence surrounding this trial is no exception.

Witness the performance to date of the city administration. Jean Doré ignored the situation as long as he could. When finally forced by activists at a city council meeting to address the question, he mouthed the usual pious platitudes but was unwilling to take any concrete steps.

The only openly gay member of city council, Raymond Blain, continues to behave like the Montréal Citizens' Movement lap dog, telling one audience of lesbians and gays that we are often responsible for the violence visited upon us because we "cruise" the wrong people or in the wrong parts of town.

If this is the best that lesbians and gays can get from the system, even during an election campaign when politicians promise everything to everybody, it should be obvious that the only way forward is higher levels of independent political action and community empowerment.

The lesbian and gay community has definitely learned this lesson. The need to organize our defence for the upcoming trial has brought much of our community together; lesbians and gays here are stronger and more united than ever before.

But we mustn't stop with preparing a defence. The trial must be turned into a truly political trial, one which makes the police and the civic administration the defendants before the court of public opinion. We were blockading police station 25 because, far from serving and protecting us, it brutalizes and harrasses us. This is the crime; the police are the criminals.

While this occurs on the city level, the McGill community must be vigilant against gay oppression here. Most recently a security guard employed by Scott's Foods ejected one patron from Gert's because he suspected the man in question was "a fag," and later threatened to eject another who was acting "too much like a faggot." Let's see if the Students' Society of McGill University can do any better than Jean Doré.

Daron Westman

Hitler gang

To the Daily:

"Within three months, we will have a prime minister who was a leader in an organization which offered its services to Hitler." Those were the words of Israeli professor Yeshayahu Leibovitz in 1986. He was talking about Yitzhak Shamir.

Although Oren Richman may think Shamir's pact with Hitler is funny (letter to the Daily, Oct. 18), Professor Leibovitz went on in his interview to compare Shamir with Kurt Waldheim, saying that Waldheim at least was conscripted into Hitler's army, while Shamir volunteered.

Richman, who knows so much about Shamir, may be suprised to learn that Shamir headed an army band during Israel's struggle for independence, as Alex Roslin correctly said in his Daily article. This war started well before even World War II broke out.

Shamir's group, the Stern Gang, broke with the more mainstream Irgun Zvai Leumi Army at the outset of World War II, because Shamir refused to suspend armed operations against the British who occupied Palestine at the time. The Irgun felt Hitler was an even greater enemy than the English. Shamir disagreed.

By fall 1940, Stern Gang members were meeting both Mussolini's and Hitler's agents. The Stern Gang expressed sympathy with Hitler's goal of a Jew-free Europe and praised "the goodwill of the German Reich government and its authorities toward Zionist activity inside Germany and towards Zionist emigration plans."

The Stern Gang proposed an alliance with Hitler to establish a Jewish state from the Nile to the Euphrates, a true Eretz Israel. Shamir was leader of the group for most of the war, and, before he became leader, he was one of the most loyal deputies of the previous leader.

Shamir's past, which lives on today in the Israeli repression of Palestinians, is well-documented. Israel Shahak wrote about in the *Middle East International* on Oct. 10, 1986, and Nov. 18, 1988. Lenni Brenner's *Zionism in the Age of the Dictators* and Christopher Hitchen's column in the *Nation* on Aug 7, 1989, are both useful. Let us try not to forget history.

Al-Jabir Abdul-Malik
President, General Union of
Palestinian Students

Arjun-baby confronted

To the Daily:

A reply to Arjun Singh's letter of October 25: "I'm a male feminist."

A male feminist?? Come on Arjun-baby, how pretentious. You're probably one of those guys who, when walking down a street at night and a woman eyes you with suspicion, you get all self-righteous and indignant instead of just crossing the street, thereby giving her some concrete proof that you are not an immediate threat to her.

The Women's Union is not creating or perpetuating barriers, it is re-acting in the only way open to it (at present) to barriers that are already there. Barriers that have been there for centuries. Barriers of incredible power and strength, that hurt women daily. Yes, real hurt, real pain, every day — and that's only for those who survive.

There is absolutely nothing you could do, no input or amelioration you could offer, as a member of the Women's Union that you could not do or offer right here and now.

What women need right now is affirmative action, not affirmative whining...

Stephen Targett
U2, Music

Wake up

To the Daily:

I wonder where Arjun Singh got his information about the McGill Women's Union in his letter entitled, "I'm a male feminist."

If he had ever made the effort to get any information about it, its members and their activities, he would certainly see things differently.

It's rather hard to believe, after three years at McGill, if he truly believes in the feminist cause, that he never came into contact with any of the Union's members or activities.

I have been at McGill for less than two months and I am very impressed with everyone that I have met from this organization. In no way is it their goal to stop men from helping in this struggle. Members of the Union organize many groups and activities to which men are welcomed, designed to fight against women's oppression, such as the Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the Walk-Safe Network. Apparently Mr. Singh didn't try too hard to look for these. Organizations such as these need the help and ideas of both men and women.

No, the oppression of women is not only a women's issue, it is a society issue. If people who do believe in equality would wake up and do something constructive, instead of putting down groups who are trying to do just that, maybe one day things will look better.

Alain Tremblay
Med-P, U1

Baffled by Singh

To the Daily:

I am writing in response to Arjun Singh's letter of October 25, "I'm a male feminist." While I am sure that Mr. Singh's letter was written with the best of intentions, it seems that he has missed to point of the feminist movement in general and the Women's Union in particular. Although as a man I feel somewhat uneasy speaking about these issues, I think it is extremely important to put them in the proper perspective before any further 'dialogue' takes place.

I don't believe that the Women's Union is creating barriers, as Mr. Singh so eloquently puts it - it is rather responding to ones which already exist in institutionalized and codified forms throughout all society. Neither are men excluded from the Women's Union. Just last year the Women's Union hosted a weekly male discussion group on feminism, and men may borrow books from the library, get information on STDs and obtain birth control.

As for Mr. Singh's claim that he is hurt by the fact that the "Women's Union thinks that the oppression of women in society is only a women's issue," I must confess that I am completely baffled. I suppose that if one only looks at the victims of sexism then this might seem to be the case, but if you really think about it the reverse would seem to be true: sexism is a man's problem - we are the ones who create it, promote it, institutionalize it and ultimately benefit from it. Consequently we must take the burden of blame for it. This certainly does not exclude men from the solution, indeed I think it fair to say that it places us squarely in the middle of it, but if Mr. Singh truly considers himself to be a pro-feminist man (please explain to me what a male feminist would look like, it seems like a contradiction in terms), he should stop complaining about being excluded and take positive steps to make himself belong.

Men and women are in a very difficult relationship and sometimes each party needs to get away from the other, to find room to breathe and to figure things out. We do it all the time in our every day lives. But this should not be taken as meaning that there is some hidden desire to exclude the other party, or that hatred is involved (I am speaking here, of course from the point of view of the Women's Union). The entire world is one big men's club; I would think that Mr. Singh would not be so petty as to begrudge women their tiny space on the fourth floor of the Union Building.

Andrew Botterell
U3 Arts

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Elijah speaks

NDP MLA Elijah Harper — reknowned for his role in the demise of Meech Lake — was at McGill yesterday for a brief stop on his way back from a visit to the European Parliament Brussels and the International Court in the Hague. The *Daily* interviewed him prior to his presentation on native politics in Canada.

by Antony Southam

Daily: What was your trip to Europe about?

Harper: Officials from the Canadian Department of External Affairs in Brussels had been lobbying against the September 13 resolution by the European Parliament (condemning Canada's violation of human rights during the Mohawk standoff at Kanestake and Kanewahke) because it involved a reference to the Mohawk 'Nation'.

I went to Europe to make a presentation to the parliament last week. The Canadian government had been invited to go but they declined, saying that it was a domestic affair.

We encouraged the Parliament to come to Canada and they are going to come as soon as possible to observe the situation here.

Daily: We have heard that you have adopted certain extra security measures while in Québec.

Harper: A lot of people felt that I should be cautious, it is not something that I imposed or asked for. I have no fear. As you see, I came alone.

Daily: In the wake of Meech Lake, how does Québec's refusal to return to the constitutional negotiating table affect the agenda for constitutional reform on native issues?

Harper: Aboriginal issues have to be dealt with by the governments, including the government of Québec. I know that the Government of Québec has stated that they would only be willing to deal with the Federal Government on a bilateral basis. I don't think they can act in isolation. If Québec gets some constitutional concessions of its own this will have an impact on the rest of the country; other provinces will begin demanding similar concessions.

In terms of aboriginal issues, I know Bourassa has said it would be more difficult for aboriginal issues to be dealt with at a constitutional conference because Québec would not be involved in it. Certainly, Québec is one of the provinces that has to deal with outstanding aboriginal issues, they can't ignore them. They have to deal with the James Bay Cree in relation to the hydro dam and other aboriginal rights.

Daily: Will this move towards a bilateral process force an eventual return to constitutional negotiations, or are there other ways for aboriginal people to achieve their aims?

Harper: I think that there are certain things you can achieve outside the constitutional process. There are bilateral discussions through which we can achieve modern day treaties with Canada, and certain issues can be addressed in that process that don't need provincial involvement. Treaties and aboriginal rights are being discussed without the participation of all provinces, such as in the case of the Dene in the North West Territories and other parts of Canada.

Daily: Negotiations for self-government have been likened to a divide and conquer strategy in that only six native groups are dealt with at a time. Is there any validity to

this concept?

Harper: Well of course, they have always done that. The policy of dealing with six claims a year doesn't work, hasn't worked and will never work. There are hundreds and hundreds of claims, it will take another one hundred years before we come to an agreement and to a conclusion.

There has to be a new process established. The whole relationship we have with the Federal Government has to be revamped; we need something entirely different, something totally new. There have always been statements made by the Prime minister in the House. But, in our experience, history shows that these statements and promises don't hold much water. There has to be a concrete move

by the government, a show of sincerity.

Daily: What would such a concrete move be?

Harper: We have treaties and aboriginal rights that are being recognized by the courts. We have the Siwi case in Québec and the Sparrow case in British Columbia which upheld traditional native rights. But even though these rights were recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada, the government hasn't seen fit to uphold the ruling and alter their policies governing native rights.

The government is supposed to be upholding our interests. The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, which is supposedly our trustee, is not doing so.

Daily: The budget cuts affecting funding to native groups have been called "surgical strikes" designed to eliminate native opposition to the government. Is this too strong an statement?

Harper: The rationale that they give to aboriginal peoples is that the government has to reduce its deficit and spending. The poorest of the poor are the aboriginal people and certainly we cannot afford any more cut-backs.

Just look at the capping of education. The Federal Government is cutting back at a time when aboriginal people are just coming to universities and post-secondary institutions. And they are cutting back on communication programs, newspapers, print, radio, and T.V. at a time when constitutional issues like Meech Lake need to be discussed. There is core funding being cut from aboriginal organizations such as the Assembly of First Nations.

If they are serious about constitutional reform, and if they are going to be serious about talking to us about aboriginal rights, why are they cutting us back? They should be increasing some funding so that we can be serious about discussing land claims and self-government. It would show some good faith on the side of the government.

This is the policy of divide and conquer, again, but it does not mean that we should not speak with one voice and advance our interests.

Daily: How has your role as an MLA within the Euro-Canadian political system affected you and your ability to act?

Harper: I think going through that process has made me stronger as an individual, as an aboriginal person. I was brought up by my grandparents so my roots are very secure.

It is a good way to promote aboriginal issues. I don't think that being involved makes me less Indian. I think that we should take every opportunity that is available to us as aboriginal people, whether it be in parliament, whether it be in a financial institution, whether it be as doctors, lawyers, teachers, social workers or any other aspect of Canadian society.

We need to know how the system works, why it works and why it makes its decisions the way it does. We have been able to advance our interests through the Manitoba legislature. We have used their rules and parliamentary procedures, to advance our interests as aboriginal people. We successfully proved this by scuttling the Meech Lake Accord.



New Film and Video winners and slingers

by Carl Wilson
and Mani Haghighi

The most stubbornly innovative of Montréal's international arts festivals ended Monday night with the screening of the two winning works, one from a Brit experimentalist and the other by an Iranian director fairly new to North American audiences.

The 19th edition of the New Film and Video Festival, while missing the box-office punch of last year (when films like *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover* and *Roger and Me* went on from festival premieres to wide-release success), reaffirmed the festival's commitment to quality and daring in both style and content.

And despite the economic downturn and the paucity of 'big names', attendance approached last year's records.

The Laurentian Bank award for best feature film (worth \$5000) went to Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami for *Close-up*. Kiarostami, whose *Where is the Friend's House?* failed to impress audiences last year, shows with *Close-Up* that he is still the master of intrusion in his neighbours' private affairs.

Here, he focuses his camera on the face of an 'Everyman' whose bizarre story made headlines in the Iranian press last year. Pretending to be popular fundamentalist filmmaker Mohsen Makhmalbaf, cinephile Ali Sabzian walked into a middle-class family's home and life, promising to make them stars.

Sabzian was found out and tried. Kiarostami got the state's permission to co-direct the court-room drama with the judge. This already outrageous intrusion was followed by an even wilder one: he asked Sabzian himself, and the family he fooled, to re-enact the whole experience before the film cameras.

For his twisted conclusion, Kiarostami asked Makhmalbaf, the real filmmaker, to drive a tearful Sabzian to the family's house to offer his apology in the form of a potted plant, unaware of a hidden camera and microphone.

The \$2000 Sony Canada video award was given to Peter Greenaway and Tom Phillips for their Channel 4 project, *A TV Dante*. Greenaway has been a New Film and Video Festival favourite for many years, but his recent notoriety for *The Cook, The Thief...* ensured sell-out houses for every screening of both *Dante* and Greenaway's other contribution, *Les Morts de la Seine*.

Dante, a collaboration between Greenaway and painter/writer/musician Tom Phillips, uses a meld of newsclips, poetry, music and video effects to convey a contemporary vision of the *Inferno*.



Close-up, by Nama-ye Nazdik and Abbas Kiarostami.

Greenaway's and Phillips' earlier works suggested the understanding of modern Hell lapped up by this year's jurors (including Québécois directors Rock Demers and Denys Arcand and German auteur Wim Wenders). The *Dante* video is the first third of the British pair's work on the *Inferno*, with the rest slated for release over the next three years.

The jury also awarded special mentions to two Québec videos, *Comme s'il avait des pyramides* (Daniele and Jacques-Louis Nyst) and *Trois strophes sur le nom de Sacher* by Chantal Ackerman.

Other highlights

Although this year's festival lacked a bit in geographic variety, with points south of the equator represented by only a couple of

films, the European selections were uniformly strong - especially those originating in Eastern Europe.

While the post-glasnost age so far has offered mostly 'long-suppressed treasures' from the Soviet Union and its satellites, the New Film and Video Festival this year gave many audiences their first look at contemporary Soviet life.

Besides the widely-acclaimed *Second Circle*, one of the most interesting Eastern European offerings was *Panzir (The Shell)*, the first long film by Igor Alimpijev. A combination of 'magic realism' and gritty cinema-direct, *The Shell*

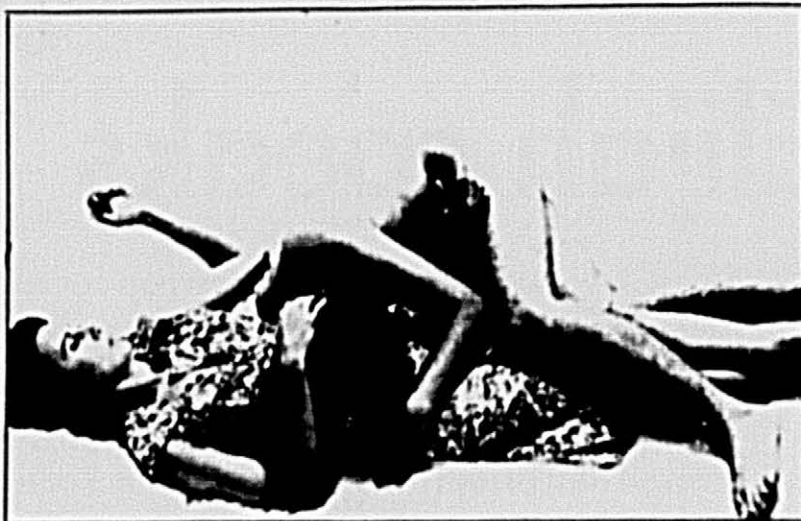


examines a group of young adults adrift in change, poverty and suicidal tendencies in contemporary Leningrad.

The social scene Alimpijev



The Second Circle, by Aleksandr Sokhurov.



White Room, by Patricia Rozema.

depicts is not that far removed from the experience of young Canadians: the film brilliantly evokes the aura of senselessness and failure under the shell of Gorbachev's liberal rhetoric.

Among *The Shell*'s many highlights are a series of Leningrad house parties, including one where the group's virtuoso violinist sounds Jimmy Page's guitar solo in *Stairway to Heaven* note-for-note, and the climactic shot of a baby carriage tumbling down an escalator in the metro and smashing the ticket booth at the bottom (a brilliant recapitulating statement on the history of Soviet film).

Exitus from Bulgaria and *Holy Ghost Day*, also from the USSR, both reinforced hallucinogenic visions of a dysfunctional Eastern Europe, full of gifted filmmakers who chronicle its pain.

Dysfunctional Western Europe was the subject of two films by Finland's Aki Kaurismäki, whose bleak images of working life in *I Hired A Contract Killer* and *The Match Factory Girl* make the Soviet films look like advertisements for Utopia.

And urban psycho-blight in New York City went under the knife in *The Golden Boat*, Chilean emigré Raul Ruiz's blend of cop movie, soap opera and Beckett play in collaboration with NYC's Wooster Group. It offered cameos by a number of New York artists and the oddest treatment of violence, downtown life and the English language you're ever likely to see.

But the festival's biggest shocker was *Singapore Sling*, which nearly cleared a full house at the Rialto as its black-and-white 115 minutes illuminated the guts-and-gore-ridden screen. More zany than Pasolini's *120 Days of Sodom* and more disgusting than Greenaway's *The Cook, the Thief...*, this new import from Greece is, like each of those films, a fantastic study in the anthropology of the ruling class.

In *Singapore Sling*, a Greek detective in search of a mysterious (but dead) woman meets others who tie him up for extremely strange sexual rituals. The detective turns rapist/killer, finally burying himself in a grave dug by his own victims. Director Nikos Nikolaidis's picture of boundless perversion never becomes grotesque without cause.

Juxtaposed with the festival's powerful selection of First Nations films and the political fire of such videos as *Tongues Untied* (an anthem and elegy to black gay male identity in the U.S.A.), the likes of *Singapore Sling* confirm that festival directors Claude Chamberlain and Dimitri Eipides have rounded out their second decade with the same vigor and bravery that marks their early curatorial work. The only disappointment is waiting a year to find out what they'll uncover next.

Unbelievable Truth's fiction not so strange

by Otto Nicholson

Ever sat through a film and thought, 'I've seen this all before'? Hal Hartley's *The Unbelievable Truth* retreads ground already stomped quite vigorously by the likes of Jim Jarmusch, Steven Soderbergh and Wim Wenders.

This is a film about trust, money, nuclear Armageddon and sex. Interesting subjects, yet they have all been done to death many times before by many different people.

To some this might be forgivable, as Hartley does such a good job presenting his first feature, but he also has very little new to say

about any of the subjects he broaches. Other directors have said more insightful things in a more melodramatic framework, but Hartley employs a low-key, deadpan minimalist style when dealing with highly emotional topics. The end result is a stale film void of fresh ideas.

The story concerns Josh (Robert Burke), who returns to Long Island after serving a prison term for killing an indeterminate number of people. The celibate Josh then gets a job as a mechanic, and soon becomes the obsession of his boss's angst-ridden daughter, Audry (Adrienne Shelley).

A supporting cast of characters strolls across the background, including Pearl, the sister and daughter of Josh's murder victims, Mike, her boyfriend, Emmett, Audry's ex-boyfriend and Audry's parents. While all of these characters are well developed, each with their own idiosyncrasies, they really only serve as decoration or perhaps as a means of drawing the film out to its full length.

But before dismissing this film as unoriginal and unengaging, one should praise its technical mastery. Shot in eleven and a half days for the cost of eight SSMU information kiosks (\$200 000), *The Unbe-*

lievable Truth deserves tremendous praise for making so much with so little.

His camera work is refreshingly unobtrusive and simple, and his use of sound is occasionally brilliant - overlapping and echoing the sound track in two scenes, one where Audry is being grilled by her parents about the importance of a college education and the other when Josh attempts to explain the workings of an automatic transmission.

It is refreshing to see a film that has no flesh wounds or blood, but because there's so little original content, perhaps the addition of a

few fire fights and car chases would have livened up this film's Valium-like 100 minutes.

In advertisement-quote vernacular, this film can be summed up in one word: "inconsequential". It is a film that will be seen and then shortly forgotten.

The Unbelievable Truth starts Friday, November 2, at the Rialto (5723 Parc) and runs through till November 15. Admission is \$5 (\$6 on weekends). Call 274-3550 for showtimes.

Classifieds

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Young French-speaking man is looking for someone to exchange French lessons for English lessons. Mostafa 523-5310.

361 - Articles for Sale

Ikea bed, 90x200, firm mattress, as new \$150. Peugeot racer, good condition, 10 gears \$75. Panasonic stereocassette, AM/FM, doubledeck as new \$50. 844-6707.

Household items including table, chairs, rug, iron, ironing board, kitchen ware, toaster, study lamp, lanterns (ceiling), bathroom cane-set and more. Phone 939-5685. Ask for Valerie.

White goose-down coats - warm- for men and women - best prices widest choice - top brand names - starting at \$75.00. Fantastique EXOA 'La Store' 550 President Kennedy 843-6248.

Brand new computers for sale: 286-386-486. high resolution monitors. Financing available - guaranteed best price. # 333-9033

Samsung SPX 3000 IBM compatible computer for sale. 30 MB hard disk, 3 1/2 & 5 1/4 diskette drives, screen, modem, WPS1, norton, etc. \$1,000! Bob 272-6730.

372 - Lost & Found

Found. Set of two keys corner of Peel and Dr. Penfield on Friday Oct. 19th. Call Kevin at 282-1669.

Found-glasses: Black frame "Chic Optic" picked up on Coloniale below Prince Arthur, Sept. 27. Call Dave 281-3024.

Ladies watch found student union building around October 1st. Please call 398-6796 to identify.

374 - Personals

Is your closet getting too small? Gays and Lesbians of McGill offers an information/counseling talkline. Call with questions, problems or just to talk. Phone 398-6822 or drop by Union 417 M-F, 7-10.

McGill Christian Fellowship's November worship service is this Friday! 19h. Presbyterian College Chapel, sharing with us on "relationships" will be Pauline Richards from the Pregnancy Counseling Centre.

Halowe'en!! Are you spooked by the night? Call McGill Nightline. 398-6246. 6 pm - 3 am every night.

385 - Notices

Gays and Lesbians of McGill offers an information and counseling talkline. Call us with questions, problems or just to talk. Phone 398-6822 or drop by Union 417 M-F, 7-10.

Lesbian/Gay discussion group held Fridays at The Yellow Door Coffee House (3625 Aylmer) at 17h30.

Sopranos, Tenors, Basses are needed for McGill Choral Society. repertoire: Rutter's Gloria, PDQ Bach's Seasonings, and others. Rehearsal Wednesday 19h30 in Strathcona Music Building C310.

Having problems with your landlord? Your employer? Are legal questions keeping you up at night? If you need help sorting out these problems & more CALL or DROP BY the McGill Legal Information Clinic. M-F/10-5 pm • 398-6792 • Rooms B20, B21 & B01-B of the Students' Union Building!

GALOM general meeting Thursday Room 425 7pm. Followed by Will Aitken (CBC Newswatch). Author of Terre Haute will read from his book and speak afterwards.

McGill Outing Club Meeting 7:30 pm, Leacock 26. Upcoming trips: icebreaker canoe trip, horseback riding, hiking. This Fri. Halloween party at The House!

Women's Union meeting to discuss affirmative action clause. Very important! Wednesday, Oct. 31, 4 pm, room 423 Union.

Access McGill - meeting for all interested in the needs of disabled students. Wed. Nov. 7, 7:00 pm room 105, Union Bldg. Everyone Welcome!

T-shirt design contest for Animal Rights. Any size. Use 1 or 2 colors. Over \$75 in prizes. Deadline Nov. 12. For details see poster or call META 276-0914.

Senandung Semalam - A night of cultural harmony. Featuring performances from East Asia. Pollack Concert Hall. Nov. 3rd, 7:30 pm. Tickets - Union building, at the door. \$5.00 students, \$7.00 general.

Criminals in Love
Montreal's English premier of George F. Walker's black comedy. Young love amidst crime. Opens Oct. 31 Halloween. Runs Oct. 31 - Nov. 10 at Player's Theatre. 3480 McTavish, 3rd floor.

389 - Musicians Wanted

Competent bassist and drummer wanted for band. Going to make blues and rock as funky as possible. Call steve 286-2479.



McGill University

DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS

The second term of office of Dean Michael P. Maxwell of the Faculty of Arts will come to an end 31 May 1992. Accordingly, an Advisory Committee to review the Deanship has been established.

The Dean of Arts supervises and administers the programs, budgets and all activities of the Faculty. Appropriate scholarly and administrative experience is required; facility in French is desirable.

Nominations to and applications for, as well as comments about, the position are invited. These should be addressed to Dr. S. O. Freedman, Vice-Principal (Academic), James Administration Building, prior to 15 December 1990.



McGill University

DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION

The position of Dean of the Faculty of Education will become vacant 1 July 1991. Accordingly, an Advisory Committee to review the Deanship has been established.

The Dean of Education supervises and administers the programs, budgets and all activities of the Faculty. Appropriate scholarly and administrative experience is required; facility in French is desirable.

Nominations to and applications for, as well as comments about, the position are invited. These should be addressed to Dr. S. O. Freedman, Vice-Principal (Academic), James Administration Building, prior to 15 December 1990.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity, Intl. presents former leader of the federal NDP and current director of the International Centre for Human Rights and Development, Ed Broadbent. Moot Court, Law Faculty, 3644 Peel St. 13h.

McGill for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Meeting to plan for Vegetarian Week in Union 410. 3480 McTavish St. 276-0914. 16h30.

McGill Entrepreneurs Club presents Bruce Kaufman, CEO of Groupe Kaufel Security alarm.

Leacock 232. 17h30.

Jewish Philosophy Group discuss life's big issues. Led by McGill Chaplain Rabbi Yakov Travis. Hillel House, 3460 Stanley. 17h30.

Women's Union is dispensing FREE contraceptives and info as part of STD Awareness Week. Look for the booth in the Student Union, 3480 McTavish. All week.

QPIRG presents a film on waste management, "As If The Future Mattered" along with narrator Paul Connett. A meeting of the of the Incineration Project

follows. Leacock 111. 398-7432. 16h.

International Socialists are having a meeting and calling it "The Collapse Of Stalinism in Eastern Europe." Union 410, 3480 McTavish, 19h.

Latin America Coffeehouse is looking for people who are musically inclined or want just have some fun playing the guitar for November 9. Call Paola 284-5223.

McGill Film Society presents the classic 70s kinky horror movie spoof "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." Leacock 132. Members &

seniors \$1.00, non \$3.00. 19h30.

Redpath Museum continues its "Endangered Spaces: Endangered Species" exhibit on freshwater and marine wetlands. Redpath Museum (the building overlooking the field of screaming rugby players). Until June 23 1991. Monday to Friday, 9h to 17h.

McGill Outing Club meeting. Leacock 26. 19h30.

Note: Dr. Kyle Pruett will give public lecture, "Father and Child: Problems and Solutions," on November 15, not November 1 as advertised.

Big and scary Hallowe'en six-pack listings

It came from outer space, it came from inner space, it came from Montréal, it came from the dep with a six-pack - wherever it came from, *be afraid, be very afraid.*

Tonight, Hallowe'en (EEK!)

If you haven't the heart to hand out arsenic-laced winegums to the greed-urchins this evening, there are some diversions at hand. Players' Theatre's production of *Criminals in Love* continues through Saturday and next week too at 20h on the third floor of the Union Building. It's rare that Players' Theatre stages a contemporary Canadian play, and George F. Walker is one of our most adventurous playwrights. As for the production, we just don't know yet. Go see.

Foufounes Electriques (87 St-Catherine Est, 845-5484) celebrates fright night with Bootsauce and rapper Freaky D. and surprises, \$10. And if you don't like licking boots, go throw rice at any of the innumerable showings of *Rocky Horror* around town, including McGill, Leacock 132, 19h30.

Hallowe'en parties with E.J. Brulé (I'm scared already, but he calls it comedy, at the Rockaway Café on Saint-Laurent), or Me, Mom and Morgentaler at the new Rising Sun ('Le Mort De' les ska-daddlers, 278-5200), amongst other locales, could also fill your goodie bags.

Finally, less frightening but more edifying, you might pursue some Music of Japan at the Musée des Beaux-Arts (1379 Sherbrooke Ouest), performed by master Hidetaro Honjo and his ensemble on traditional instruments tonight and tomorrow at 20h30. If you have the twelve bucks, or an equivalent quantity of yen.

Thursday

The most exciting musical event in recent Montréal history, the New Music America 1990 festival, starts tonight at several locations at many times and runs until November 11. More detailed coverage will appear in the November 8 Culture Edition of the *Daily*, but get yourself a schedule or call 499-1990 before you break your piggy bank open and snap up some of the most interesting experimental music in the world. Of special interest in the week to come are Mother Mallard at the Spectrum on Friday, The President at the Spec' Saturday, the UQAM Belltower concert Saturday morning, and Fred Frith's guitar performance at Foufounes Monday night.

Also Thursday, look for a benefit performance of John Gray's Canadian warhorse Billy Bishop at Concordia at 20h (845-9810), a rock-out by rootsy eccentrics and family-reunion types Slim Behemoth's Lightning Condition at, of all places, The Rockaway Café (987-ROCK (ahem)), and West German films of the '80s at the Goethe Institut (418 Sherbrooke Street East, 499-0919).

Friday

Many of the above events con-

tinue (this is a quiz: do you remember which ones?), and Allen Sex Fiend comes in for a nymph-gland landing at Foufounes at midnight. Ten bucks, but all the special effects money can buy.

Saturday

A good night for New Music

America, but also consider the Rialto's showing of *Performance*, a 1970 Nicolas Roeg film starring Mick Jagger.

Sunday

End your weekend with waves of psychic despair and horror from the malevolent world of *visual art*.

Vermisages across town, take your pick - wander up St-Laurent to the indies (esp. La Centrale, 4060 St-Laurent, Suite 205), or across the island to the Musée d'Art Contemporain. The latter venue offers a particularly intriguing menu: Broken Music, a visual complement to New Music America, is launched

at 15h, as are recent works by Suzanne Giroux and Raymond Gervais, but if you show up early (let's say 14h) you'll hear a performance by Christian Marclay and Martin Tétreault, of NYC and Montréal. Somethin' old, somethin' new, somethin' broken, somethin' musical... BOO!

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